

Showa Corporation
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SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 10 with the following paragraph:

In a front fork of a motorcycle, there have been structures in which [a] wear resistance and low-frictional resistance are improved by forming a hard film of TiN or TiO compound on a surface of a slide pipe slidably provided within a cylinder tube in accordance with a dry plating such as an HCD method, a PVD method, a PVCD method or the like. The structure is used in a road racer, an off road racer, a mass production motorcycle or the like. In this case, a surface of the TiN film has a gold color, and a surface of the TiO film has a blue color, a green color or a brown color in correspondence to an amount of contained oxygen.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 26 with the following paragraph:

When the motorcycle travels on a flat straight road surface of the like, [a] vibration input from the road surface is small, so that only a small side force is applied to the slide pipe. Further, when traveling on the flat straight road surface or the like, the slide pipe is driven with respect to the cylinder tube at a low speed.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 25 with the following paragraph:

An intermediate layer 2 made of SiC containing 30% [at%] Si is provided on an outer peripheral surface of a slide pipe raw pipe 1 such as a steel pipe for machine structural use containing Fe, Cr or the like, for improving an adhesion with the slide pipe raw pipe 1, and a DLC film 3 containing 5 [at%] % Si and having a film thickness of 2 to 3 μm is formed on the intermediate layer 2, in accordance with a PCVD method, as shown in FIG. 2. In this case, the film thickness of the DLC film 3 may be within a range between 1 and 5 μm . Si of the DLC film 3 is contained for lowering internal stress. FIG. 3 shows a composition in each of component parts in a depth direction obtained by etching the slide pipe raw pipe 1, the intermediate layer 2 and the DLC film 3 from the surface (DLC film 3).

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Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 19 with the following paragraph:

In this case, during low speed operation of the slide pipe 12 such as when traveling on a flat straight road surface or the like, it is required that the slide pipe 12 does not move too much and the road holding property of the tire is good. Further, during high speed operation of the slide pipe 12 such as when traveling on a rough road surface having [a] great irregularity or the like, it is required that the slide pipe 12 moves well and the road surface following property of the tire is good.